Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

X	Original		Updated		Corrected	Supple	emental
LRB	Number	05-3283/1		Introdu	uction Number	SB-294	
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SPD/ Mike Tobin (608) 266-8259 Krista				Ginger (608) 264-8572			8/26/2005

Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 8/29/2005

LRB Number 05-3283/1	Introduction Number	SB-294	Estimate Type	Original				
Subject								
Controlled substances								

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) provides legal representation in criminal cases and other specified proceedings in which the loss of personal liberty or parental rights may occur. For adult clients, the SPD must complete a financial eligibility evaluation before appointing an attorney. SPD services are constitutionally required because in the case types handled by SPD, a defendant without the financial means to hire an attorney has the right to have an attorney appointed. Therefore, any bill that would increase the number of cases handled by SPD would increase SPD costs.

This bill creates a new criminal offense for which SPD will be required to appoint attorneys. Thus, SPD is likely to see increased costs from an increased number of cases.

Counties are likely to incur additional costs for appointment of attorneys under State v. Dean for defendants who do not meet SPD's strict financial criteria. Incarceration costs will also increase for defendants held in jail (both pending court hearings and serving sentences).

We are not aware of any existing data to predict the number of new case resulting from this bill, but we could track these numbers in the future.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications